

U.S. application of ZIEGS, Carsten, Ser. No. 10/068,469

Amendment dated July 15, 2003

Reply to Office Action of January 15, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

In the amendments above, we have revised the specification and Figure 5 to renumber element 26 (“recess”) as “33”. With entry of this amendment, claims 9 and 11-18 are pending, with claim 18 being newly added above. Claim 10 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and its subject matter has now been added to independent claim 9. Claims 9 and 12 are revised to address the Examiner’s concerns under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 13, 14 and 15 are revised to correct dependency, and now depend on new claim 18. New claim 18 is added to capture the subject matter newly canceled from claim 9. No new matter is introduced by any of these amendments to the specification, Figure 5 or the claims, or by new claim 18. Entry is therefore requested.

In the January 15, 2003 Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4). The Examiner has noted that the reference number “26” has been used twice to designate both “second end” in Figure 3 (as described on page 4, line 23) and “recess” in Figure 5 (as described on page 5, line 15). We have amended the specification above and Figure 5 to renumber the “recess” element as number 33. This is reflected in the attached annotated sheet of Figures 5 and 6, and the attached replacement sheet of Figures 5 and 6.

Claims 9-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly indefinite. The Examiner has identified claim language in claims 9, 10 and 12 that is objectionable. In response, we have amended claims 9 and 12 to address the Examiner’s specific concerns. Claim 10 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The claims as amended are now believed to be free of §112, second paragraph objections.

Claims 9 and 11-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Colletti (U.S. Patent Number 6,112,863). Independent claim 9 has been amended above to include the subject matter of claim 10, which is directed to subject matter that is already found by the Examiner to be allowable over the art. Thus, claim 9 and dependent claims 11-17 (and new claim 18) are believed to be distinguishable and patentable over the Colletti patent.

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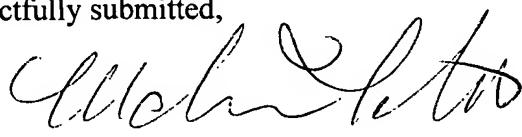
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In summary, all of the Examiner's outstanding rejections and objections have been addressed, and the application is believed to be in allowable form. Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein.

If the Examiner has any questions, please contact applicants' representative Marlana K. Titus at (301) 762-8214.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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